The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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UNIONISM MEANS AMERICANISM NON-UNIONISM MEANS FEUDALISM

The union shop is a challenge to absolutism in industry.

In the union shop the employer is shorn of autocratic power to set wages, hours and working conditions. Here, joint bargaining is the rule. The workers have a voice.

In the non-union shop the employer is master.

This employer is less frank than the Roman slave owner and the feudal baron, both of whom controlled the lives of their chattels. But his purpose is the same—mastery over the men and women of toil.

He makes no pretense of superiority and divine right, as did other autocrats. He talks of liberty and equal opportunity.

His liberty is to have each worker, single-handed, pit his wit and his need to labor against a trustified industry that is powerful enough to defy government, debauch the judiciary and corrupt public opinion.

His equal opportunity is for workers to be content with wages set by him or by officials of the state who can be controlled by him.

This employer believes in labor organizations—if he has "the last guess." He must be the court of last resort, have the final word in every dispute.

To talk of liberty where non-unionism exists is mockery. There can be no democracy where employers have personally-controlled company "unions," and welfare systems, as did slave owners who boasted of their kind treatment to vassals.

There are only two systems in industry—union and non-union.

The union system rests on collective bargaining and the workers' right to be represented by persons of their own chosing.

The non-union system rests on individual bargaining with the worker pleading his own case or by a person the employer approves.

The non-union system is never referred to as such by feudal employers. Their publicity agents coin catchy phrases to cloak this un-American system.

Their "open shop," "free labor" and similar terms are tricky, deceitful and misleading.

Man's noblest ideals are "gutterized" by these labor exploiters who would destroy independence in their workers.

These non-union employers, these petty autocrats, lack the courage of German militarists who boldly declared: "Might makes right."

The need for trade union agitation and education was never so urgent.

The difference between the union and non-union systems should be stressed at mass meetings, by discussion and every other publicity method.

Unionism means resistance to wrong.

Non-unionism means docility, servility and "squaw men."

WHAT CAUSES ACCIDENTS.

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 6.—Accidents may be due to mechanical, physiological or phychological causes, said Peter C. Spence, mechanical and civil engineer of the state department of labor in a recent speech.

"Mechanical deficiencies can be remedied by applying guards. Physiological causes may be due to fatigue, mental worry, disease, etc. The physiological causes of accidents are ignorance, inexperience, carelessness, recklessness, lack of discipline and careless supervision. Horse-play, scuffling, ill feeling between men or different gangs, sliding down ladders, jumping from higher levels onto scaffolds, throwing material recklessly—constitute conduct prejudicial to safety.

"The crank shaft, sprocket wheels and chains, and all exposed gears and revolving set screws, keys and keyways, as well as all reciprocating parts of hoisting engines, motors, steam shovels, etc., should be substantially guarded. Likewise the gears on breast derricks and concrete mixers as well as the spokes of fly wheels should be protected. The engineer or operator should be provided with a footing that is not slippery.

"All ladders, scaffolds, ramps, railings, and guards should be constructed and installed in a substantial manner, i. e., taking into consideration the loads that have to be carried, and the foundation or footings which support these devices. A weak guard lends a false sense of security. For when such fails, the result is likely to be more serious than if no guard was in place."

WHOLESALE MEAT LOWER.

Washington, Nov. 6.—Substantial reductions in the price of meat—for the wholesaler—is reported by the institute of American meat packers. During October the selling price of carcass beef throughout the country showed an average decline of approximately 13 per cent, as compared with the first week in September. Fresh pork declined heavily. In the domestic trade, from October 2 to October 28 the wholesale prices of light pork loins, whence come pork chops, declined about 21 per cent. During the same period pork shoulders declined about 10 per cent and smoked hams and standard bacon fell slightly less than 10 per cent.

RAIL WORKERS RESTLESS.

London, England, Nov. 6.—The railway advisory board, created as a result of last year's strike of railway employes, has failed to function, and dissatisfaction is general. It is declared that there is no co-operation between the workers and the government's ministry of transport. One official of the railway men's union said:

"Causes of delay have increased and multiplied until our members are threatening revolt. There seems to be a policy of pin pricks and this is at the root of more trouble than clear-cut grievances."

RESIST NON-UNIONISM.

Cincinnati, Nov. 6.—The non-union shop movement is being resisted by organized workers in this city. Mass meetings, called by the central body, will explain why cheap labor employers oppose the union shop, which denies them complete control in setting wages, hours and working conditions.

MACHINISTS JAILED.

Hoboken, N. J., Nov. 6.—Nine members of Machinists' union No. 351 are serving three months in jail for violating a labor injunction issued at the request of the Bijor Motor company. The union is fighting the jailing of these workers, who insisted on their right to tell of conditions at the motor plant.

MINERS ARE STICKING.

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 6.—Striking coal miners in the Mingo county field are facing winter in their struggle against non-union coal owners and their murderous thugs. There are 2,504 men, 1,920 women and 4,973 children on the relief roll.

ENGINEERS GAIN.

Los Angeles, Nov. 6.—The value of trade unionism is shown in recent advances by the Hoisting and Boiler Engineers' union, whose wage rate 18 months ago ranged from $4.50 to $8 a day. Now rates are $5 to $10.

WHY JAPS ARE OPPOSED.

San Francisco, Nov. 6.—In answer to the statement of New York churchmen, who deplore "agitation and hasty action" in the matter of Japanese immigration, the Japanese exclusion league of this state says:

"In California the Japanese have concentrated 75,000 of their people in favored spots in seven of our 58 counties.

"They have secured control of industries, driven out whites and displaced white children in public schools. While their population in the state is less than one-thirtieth of the whites, Orientals, almost entirely Japanese, now control one-sixth of the total rich irrigated lands of the state and control an actual majority acreage of such lands in several of the larger counties. They are bending every effort to increase control of land and industries before California can put a defensive measure into operation. The Japanese birth rate in California is three times that of the whites, although the proportion of adult females among the Japanese is less than one-third that among the whites."

PACKERS WANT LONG HOURS

Chicago, Nov. 6.—The Butcher Workman calls attention to the meat packers' demand for a return to the 10-hour day instead of the basic eight-hour day.

The labor publication says that the undisguised reactionary tendency of the packers to reduce conditions of employment to a pre-war basis is as clear as daylight.

"To be thoroughly prepared to protect our rights we must be well organized. When that time comes we must have a still bigger, more progressive and more militant organization. And that time will surely come when we need strength, ingenuity and unity to retain that which we have gained and to demand that which we are justly entitled."

The policy of the packers is almost simultaneous with announcements from various sources on the staggering profits made by the packers and their marvelous systems of bookkeeping to conceal these profits.

STEEL EARNINGS UP.

New York, Nov. 6.—The steel trust's report for the third quarter of this year shows a profit of $48,051,540, after paying federal taxes and interest on bonds of the various units of the trust.

These profits are an increase of nearly $5,000,000 over the report of the second quarter, and an increase of nearly $8,000,000 over the earnings of last year's third quarter.

Thus far 1920 profits of the steel corporation have amounted to more than $122,000,000.

PROMISE TO BE "GOOD."

Cleveland, Nov. 6.—There are "unreasonably high prices" and "unwise practices" among coal owners, according to resolutions adopted at a meeting in this city of 1,000 coal owners.

They promise to eliminate these evil practices, but insist that coal owners are now only making a "reasonable profit."

ANTIS HAVE NEW NAME.

San Diego, Cal., Nov. 6.—Anti-trade unionists in this vicinity have dubbed themselves "better" Americans in an effort to establish the non-union shop. It is the same old crowd of cheap wage employers who continually invent new terms for their citizens' alliance activities.

WANT LOWER WAGES.

Stockton, Cal., Nov. 6.—The Merchants, Manufacturers and Employers' association is agitating in favor of the non-union shop.

Trade unionists have answered this low wage plea by demanding that rates be increased, and in several instances they have succeeded.

MOVIE OPERATORS GAIN.

Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 6.—Moving picture operators have reduced their work day from eight hours to six and raised wages from 50 cents an hour to 75 cents.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Napa, Cal., Nov. 6.—Through conferences with employers organized teamsters and chauffeurs have raised wages $1 a day.

HIGH LUMBER PRICES TRACED TO MONOPOLY

Washington, Nov. 6.—High lumber prices are traced to their cause by George P. Hampton, managing director of the farmers' national council.

Mr. Hampton calls attention to a report by Commissioner of Corporations Davies in 1914 that 16 holders own 47,800,000 acres of timber lands in this country. This is an area 10 times greater than the state of New Jersey. The federal official also reported that 1,694 timber owners hold in fee over one-twentieth of the land area of the entire United States from the Canadian to the Mexican border. These 1,694 holders own 15,600,000 acres. Of the 82,500,000 acres granted to three western railroads in the 60's, the railroads retained 40 per cent in 1910.

In 1911 Commissioner of Corporations Smith reported that in 1880 at least three-fourths of the timber then standing was publicly owned. Now about four-fifths of it is privately owned, the great bulk of it having passed through enormous railroad, canal and wagon road grants by the federal government, direct government sales of unlimited quantities at $1.25 an acre, and certain public land laws.

The lumber situation, said Mr. Hampton, is a further indication of the tremendous cost to the American people of permitting private ownership of natural resources, such as timber lands.

"It is the bitterest irony that the railroads which received grants from the federal and state governments of 150,000,000 acres of land should this year have received a guarantee of 6 per cent (Cummins-Esch law) on their capitalization, and they are also, as owners of these valuable timber lands, being permitted by the government to charge such unconscionably high prices for timber which the farmers need to continue farming."

44 HOURS IN AUSTRALIA.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Nov. 6.—The 44-hour week for pastoral workers has been established in practically every section of the Australian commonwealth by the Australian Workers' union.

An agreement with the various pastoralist associations makes the shorter work week a fact, increases wages, improves working conditions and fixes the price of meat for these workers on terms more favorable than have yet prevailed. The agreement includes sheep shearers, shed hands, wool scourers, cooks and all other employes connected with the pastoral calling.

The Australian Workers' union has made these gains through organization, and despite the opposition of organized employers and men who should be associated with this labor organization, but who talk "one big union."

"These bellicose individuals," says the Australian Worker, "have done absolutely nothing to contribute to the peaceful victory which the A. W. U. has gained.

"They have made a most tremendous row, it is true. They have bellowed to the full capacity of brazen throats; have caused the atmosphere to tremble with their bombastic clamor; have babbled and blabbed in interviews with the capitalistic press. But tested by practical results all that their pugnacious pratings amount to is an expression of furious futility.

"Members of the A. W. U. will know how to assess at their true worth these garrulous incompetents. They will also be able to make a shrewd guess at the motives for the campaign of disruption which has been started from the same quarter."

EMPLOYERS' BEST AIDE.

Chicago, Nov. 6.—"Forces of various kinds," says the Cigar Makers' Official Journal, "directed toward the disruption of organized labor have a powerful ally. He is an unscarred veteran of many industrial battles, unscarred from the fact that he is not a fighter, and is never found on the firing line. His name is General Apathy and his number is legion.

"Our organization is infested with a few such 'generals,' loud in their condemnation, weak in their support and absolutely negligible in their efforts to improve.

"Our system of laws enables us to become just what the membership desires."

WANT MORE COMPENSATION.

Seattle, Nov. 6.—The Washington state federation of labor is urging a complete revision of the workmen's compensation law of this state. A conference has been arranged by the state industrial commission, the unionists and employers. The workers say the particular need is for substantial increases in all of the awards provided by the act. The law is nine years old and they point out that 1911 minimums are now impossible with living costs advancing to nearly 150 per cent.

METAL WORKERS UNITE.

Cairo, Ill., Nov. 6.—Sheet metal workers in this city have organized and are planning to improve working conditions in this craft.

RAIL MANAGERS WANT SMALL WAGE BOARDS

New York, Nov. 6.—Rail managers oppose the plan of their organized shop employes and the railroad brotherhoods that national wage adjusting boards be set up.

Under government control three adjustment boards were established to handle grievances of these workers, who were grouped in three classes. The workers want this policy continued, but the managers favor decentralization. Under the Cummins-Esch law either plan is permitted.

The workers insist that the railroads must be considered as an entirety, while the managers hold that each system is a distinct unit. The purpose of the managers is apparent, as these officials make no attempt to conceal their opposition to the workers' growing solidarity.

Another feature of the Cummins-Esch law which is of advantage to the managers is that clause which permits the railroad labor board to take cognizance of any complaint signed by "not less than 100 unorganized employes or subordinate officials directly interested in the dispute."

FRIENDLY TO LAND TAX BILL.

Chicago, Nov. 6.—The American Contractor, devoted to construction interests, discusses the Ralston-Nolan federal land tax bill in a spirit that indicates new viewpoints on land taxation by many business men.

The bill is pending in congress. It calls for a 1 per cent tax on land held out of use, and is intended to penalize the practice of those who hold idle land while the growth of a community increases its value.

The American Contractor says this bill "is attracting increasing attention from the manufacturing interests of the country.

"The American Bankers' association refused to approve the bill in its recent convention in Washington. This was to be expected because of the importance of land in the security market. The bankers' action does not eliminate the bill by any means and its consideration by congress will be forced by a large number of business men and manufacturers who are convinced that business is paying an unjust share of federal tax while the speculative and idle holdings of land and natural resources are escaping.

"The committee of manufacturers and merchants on federal taxation, which apparently is backed by some of the most substantial manufacturers in the United States, is lining up the forces favorable to the bill so that they will be ready for action in the next session of congress."

CAN PROFITS ARE LARGE.

Washington, Nov. 6.—Publication of huge profits by the American Can company has been made by the International Association of Machinists, whose members are attempting to enforce a living wage in the numerous plants of this trust. The figures were compiled by W. Jett Lauck. The company virtually controls the can-making industry in this country.

"In 1917," says the report, "the company had net profits of $22,000,000, or about five times as much as the average for the 10 previous years, and twice as much as it made in the most prosperous year before the war."

In the section of the report on profiteering it is charged that the can company resorted "to the favorite smoke screen of other great corporations which grew rich out of the war, and each year set aside immense sums for depreciation and federal taxes."

The company's books show that the average annual depreciation charge for the war period is $2,875,000, as compared with the pre-war average of $801,407. In addition, during this time, the company set aside $17,000,000 to pay federal taxes. In one year, 1917, after depreciation and tax reserves of $9,500,000, it had left $11,892,859, or more than three times the average for the pre-war period.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 6.—An arbitration board has raised wages of stereotypers employed on local newspapers to $5 for day or night work. Rates for apprentices are also agreed to.

Ottawa, Ontario, Nov. 6.—Stereotypers employed in the government printing bureau have raised wages $6 a week. The new rate is $36.

Bridgeport, Conn., Nov. 6. — The new wage scale of stereotypers employed on newspapers in this city is $6.25 for day or night. The former rate was $28 a week.

BANKS ARE PROSPEROUS.

Washington, Nov. 6—The earnings of all national banks in the country averaged 24 per cent on their capital, an unprecedented figure during the year, according to John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, in his annual report, just made public.

Only five small banks with a total capital of $205,000 went into the hands of receivers. This is less than one-eighth of the yearly average of the banks that have failed for the past 56 years.

LUMBER BARONS MOB WESTERN UNIONIST

San Francisco, Nov. 6.—The California state federation of labor has taken up the case of S. H. Wood, vice president of the International Timber Workers' union, who was mobbed at Susanville, this state, and barely escaped with his life.

Wood went to Susanville to organize a union of timber workers. The day after his arrival he was arrested by the town marshal "on suspicion of being an I. W. W." He was placed in jail and no one was informed of his whereabouts. He finally secured a message to local unionists by calling through a window.

The marshal had no warrant and on releasing the prisoner he was seized by a mob who drove to the jail in four automobiles. A sack was placed over his head and it was tied with a rope. The mob rushed to a bridge and after a whispered consultation they drove into the country several miles and released Wood with orders to "beat it." Later the mob returned and began a search for their intended victim, who hid in heavy timber lands. He remained there during a rainy night and was rescued in the morning when almost exhausted.

Susanville is a lumber district and is controlled by the Westwood Lumber company. In Westwood there are signs with this inscription:

"This street and all others in this town are private property. The right to use them is revocable at any time."

The 10-hour day prevails there. Room rents range from $1.25 to $1.75 a day and from $2 to $3.50 a day in hotels. Living costs are higher than in almost any other section of the state and in the mills there is a labor turnover of 75 per cent.

It is stated that on the day of the mobbing the man who lights the streets was ordered not to turn on the lights until he was notified, because "there was something doing that evening."

COAL PUBLICITY ENDS.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The federal trade commission has ended the publication of bituminous coal costs until the court decides if it has the power to compel coal owners to furnish these reports. When the commission began issuing the bulletins the coal owners voluntarily supplied information, but later objected and the matter is now before the courts to decide on the constitutional power of congress to authorize the commission to require reports on the cost of production.

The commission says it believes that production cost information in such a fundamental industry as bituminous coal is of the greatest usefulness to the industry.

"It is," said the commission, "likewise obviously of benefit to the public to know what the cost of coal production is, and what the sales realization price at the mine is, and being informed as to these factors to determine whether any intervening agency is occasioning an undue rise in the price to the consumer."

The coal owners' attitude is in line with the refusal of anthracite coal owners to permit their production costs to be submitted to the recent anthracite wage commission appointed by the president. The miners had prepared a series of statistics on this and related questions, but the commission upheld the coal owners' claim that this has no connection with the wage movement.

AID INJURED WORKERS.

Washington, Nov. 6.—Twenty-one states have accepted the terms of the federal industrial rehabilitation act. These states, in the order of their acceptance, are: Nevada, Minnesota, New York, Tennessee, Arizona, Indiana, North Dakota, Oregon, Ohio, Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, West Virginia, Iowa, Delaware, New Jersey, South Carolina, Alabama, Utah, Mississippi and Texas.

The industrial rehabilitation law has been described as "an act to set up injured workers." It is based on the theory that an injured person is of more benefit to society and to himself if he is assisted, through training, to earn his living. The federal government appropriates to each state an amount equal to that appropriated by the state for that purpose. The federal board approves the system of training that these states use.

WANTED SPY JOB.

New York, Nov. 6.—Albert Ballin is in jail, charged with having written a threat to blow up the Woolworth building, the highest structure in this city. Federal officials say Ballin's purpose was to get a job with the department of justice as an "under-cover agent" or "stool pigeon" and thought that if federal officials were scared by a bomb plot they would employ him.

This situation recalls the recent statement by Federal Judge Anderson of the Boston district that the government employed stool pigeons to mingle among radical groups.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Savannah, Ga., Nov. 6.—A short strike of garment workers employed by Alexander Brothers & company resulted in a 20 per cent wage increase.

"PRODUCTION" CRY MASK FOR LOW WAGES

Washington, Nov. 6.—The claim that unionism interferes with greater production and efficiency is a mask to conceal employers' opposition to organized labor, said Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., replying to a New York newspaper's request for labor's views on the present non-union shop movement.

"The attack on labor is in many sections of the country and is based on the non-union shop," said the trade union official. "These employers want to bargain with employes as individuals. The organized workers insist on collective bargaining. This blocks the employers' plan to set wages and working conditions, without a voice by labor.

"These employers are crafty, however. They do not announce their purpose. That they may capture public opinion, which quite often affects judicial decisions, they talk about greater production and efficiency.

"These employers should practice production and efficiency. Their idle mills at the present time, which have been shut down to maintain famine prices, indict their production demand. As regards efficiency claims, let them end the killing and wounding of hundreds of thousands of workers in industry because of unguarded machinery and occupational diseases; let them consult government reports on every phase of production and they will find that millions of dollars are wasted because of their unscientific methods. But before they put their business affairs on an economical, efficient basis, let them investigate the recent charge by Comptroller of the Currency Williams that a handful of New York bankers have the commerce of the nation by the throat.

"It is inconceivable that business men can imagine workers are so lacking in a knowledge of common information that they are unable to detect the pretense of employers who would conceal their inefficiency by insisting that labor reduce its living standards.

"Labor will not reduce its living standards. The present attempt is identical with movements when labor was less intelligent and less unified.

"If these business men are so blind to world events and the spirit of unrest that they court a fight with labor rather than travel the road of harmony and good will, they will be responsible for the result."

CAN'T RUN BUSINESS.

Tampa, Fla., Nov. 6.—The Cigar Manufacturers' association victimizes workers and controls the business of employers, according to an affidavit by F. Garcia, president of one of the largest cigar making plants in this city. The affidavit reads that the association "requires the members thereof to surrender control of their own business and deprives them of their right to transact their business in accordance with their individual judgment and conscience."

It is also stated "that one of the principal objects of said unlawful combination and agreement is to bring about discharge of workmen whenever a majority of the members of said association so desire."

The Cigar Manufacturers' association is directing the anti-union movement against several thousand employes who were forced on strike eight months ago. The employers discharged 200 active members of the cigar makers' unions and to save their organizations the employes suspended work.

STRIKE LEADERS JAILED.

Indianapolis, Nov. 6.—Federal Judge Anderson, who issued an injunction against striking miners last fall, has jailed William A. Wallace and Charles Whitcomb, of Washington, this state, for 60 and 90 days respectively, because they violated one of his injunctions. The latter is president of the Washington central labor union.

A strike was on at the Hinchor Manufacturing company, Washington, and a New York man asked Judge Anderson to issue the injunction because the strike made it impossible for the company to fulfill its contract to deliver goods.

The workers' right, of course, is a mere detail as compared with the New Yorker's failure to receive his goods, and the court issued the order.

In sentencing the two unionists, Judge Anderson insisted that the right to strike was not involved.

It is only when strikes become effective that the court is interested.

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

Cincinnati, Nov. 6.—Employing bakers announce that they will operate on the non-union basis, starting next April, when an agreement with the Bakers' union expires. This decision was made at a luncheon, which was addressed by an officer of the local chamber of commerce, who explained the non-union policy of the chamber of commerce of the United States.

The bosses are aware that they will be resisted by their organized employes, but the prize of securing absolute control in setting wages can not be overlooked by greed.

Gregory, Deceased Jurist, Opposed Labor Injunctions

Washington, Nov. 6.—Announcement from Chicago of the death of Stephen S. Gregory, former president of the American Bar association, recalled the defense of labor's position on the injunction question by this jurist in 1915 before the commission on industrial relations at its final hearings in this city.

The lawyer rested his case on the purposes of the injunction writ and insisted that it is intended for the protection of property rights and never to apply to personal rights or to permit judges to act as law makers, judges and executioners.

"The newspapers and even the judges," said this jurist, "have much to say when an employer files a bill and obtains an injunction against workmen on strike from interfering with his men that he has hired in the place of these workmen, and acts of violence, and so forth, about that injunction being granted in order to protect the right of every man to work for whom he chooses. There is really no just relation there, and no lawyer could justify it upon any such theory. I have no right to go out and file a bill to be permitted to work for whom I choose; and if I did, any one of these judges, who sometimes use that language incautiously, would laugh me out of court.

"Equity deals only with the rights of property."

In referring to the practice of injunction judges jailing strikers without trial by jury or other constitutional guarantees, Mr. Gregory said:

"The constitution has thrown around the prosecution of criminals—the constitutions, state and federal—a number of securities. They are entitled to trial by jury; they are entitled to be confronted by the witnesses who are to testify against them; they are entitled to be heard by counsel.

"But none of these guarantees, except, perhaps, the right to be heard by counsel, is secured in contempt proceedings, and to provide that the court may proceed against them for contempt, where the conduct charged against them is criminal, is really an evasion of the constitutional guarantees and a plain attempt to commit to equity jurisdiction over matters which it has been decided over and over again by all the courts that it has no jurisdiction with respect to, namely, the administration of the criminal law.

"For instance, I might receive as I leave the room of this tribunal today, a threatening letter from somebody saying they were going to kill me for something that I had said or had not said, in a court of equity. Now, that involves personal loss possible to my wife or those dependent upon me; but no court of equity would listen for a moment to a bill I would file, saying 'A B' or some other black hand gentleman had threatened to kill me, or if filed by anybody dependent upon me, and therefore there should be an injunction to prevent him from killing me.

"That would be an absurdity, a legal absurdity, and none the less is it so where a man is enjoined from committing acts of violence in a strike to try him for contempt without a trial by jury. And that has been an injustice that has rankled in the minds of everybody that has been a victim of it and justly so.

"Sir Charles Napier says: 'People talk about agitators, but the only real agitator is injustice; and the only way is to correct the injustice and withdraw the agitation.'"

In defending the right of workers to boycott, Mr. Gregory said:

"If you agree to commit murder, that crime is illegal, whether it is two or two thousand. If you agree to do any other unlawful act, that agreement is illegal and constitutes in itself an unlawful act. But if men combine to do that which they, each one severally, have a right to do, if after all the combined act is essentially the same as the act of the single individual, then it is very difficult to establish on any logical, legal principle that such a combination in and of itself is illegal."

Mr. Gregory's testimony ended with this question and answer:

"Commissioner Lennon—Mr. Gregory, is the issuance of injunctions warranted where there is other adequate remedy at law to cure that which the injunction seeks to handle?

"Mr. Gregory—It is one of the canons of the law on that subject that in such cases injunction should not issue—particularly, a preliminary injunction."

MERCHANT MARINE COST SHIFTED TO TAXPAYERS

New York, Nov. 6.—By the terms of a new contract for the management of government-owned merchant vessels, private ship companies are assured a profit and the United States shipping board assumes all risk, according to Reuben A. Lewis, in the Annalist, financial paper.

It is stated that the terms of the contract are not generally known to the public. The shipping board has agreed to pay all expenses incurred by the ships on their voyages and to give to the ship companies 5 per cent of the gross freight money on outward voyages and 2½ per cent on the incoming trips. This replaces the old contract which provided for the payment of a small fixed sum per deadweight ton and a division of profits, provided there were any.

The writer says it is doubtful if the agreement is one over which the taxpayers will enthuse. The companies to which the government board consign the ships for operation do not risk a single cent in the management and operation of property worth more than $1,000,000,000. The agreement dates back to March 1 last and it is predicted that the incomes of the steamship companies for this year will be "far in excess of what it otherwise would have been."

"There seems to be little doubt but the unheralded agreement—which few taxpayers know is in existence—will prove a severe drain upon the treasury. Thus far the shipping board has not made any demands upon the exchequer, but it must be recalled that the millions of dollars which it derives from the sale of ships may be applied to meet any deficits incurred through operation."

MANY WOMEN EMPLOYED.

Washington, Nov. 6.—In a survey of women in industry in Virginia, by the women's bureau of the federal department of labor, it is stated that in 148 establishments in that state, employing 34,913 workers, over one-half are women. The number is 18,781, or 52.8 per cent of the total. It is estimated that there are 226,000 wage earning women in Virginia.

In the plants investigated there is almost a total absence of any health or accident records. In 89 establishments, employing more than 6,000 women, no proper equipment was found for the treatment of injuries or illness.

A bottle of turpentine for remedies and old rags for bandages was in a plant where girls were running power machines and a "colic cure," to be indiscriminately used by the foreman, should surely be replaced, says the report, by an up-to-date first aid equipment in charge of some one who is trained to administer it.

It is declared that poor working conditions and long hours are not the only things that these wage working women have to contend with, but that "their responsibilities and their struggle to make two ends meet are an additional strain on their vitality."

The investigators did not survey wages, but their report on home conditions of the women is an indictment of wages paid.

UNION SHOP STRIKE ILLEGAL.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 6.—The Jewelry Workers' union has asked the state supreme court to review a decision against these workers in which the court held that picketing to enforce collective bargaining, or the union shop, is illegal.

The court upheld the Oregon anti-injunction law, which permits picketing, but made an exception in the case of the jewelry workers. If the decision stands the court will be in the position of accepting a law which legalizes picketing, but retains the right to say what strikes come under the law.

Attorneys for the jewelry workers insist that the court has no jurisdiction to consider the object of a strike in passing upon the right to picket, and that the court erred when it ruled that a strike for recognition of the union is not a trade dispute or controversy within the meaning of that law.

Two judges of the supreme court handed down strong dissenting opinions.

FEDERAL EMPLOYES GAIN.

Washington, Nov. 6.—If federal employes were unorganized 9,000 of them would not secure wage increases that range from 5 to 30 per cent.

Last September the navy department made a wage advance for civilian mechanics, as a result of the agitation by these organized workers. Clerical and messenger navy yard employes were not included and the National Federation of Federal Employes took the matter up with the navy department. Local boards were established, with results noted above.

DECLINE LONG HOURS.

New York, Nov. 6.—At a mass meeting of organized teamsters the employers' offer for longer hours and the same rates, as a reply to the workers' demand for wage increases, was booed. The drivers unanimously rejected the bosses' plan and accepted the advice of their officials not to fall into a trap and precipitate a strike. It was decided to remain at work and demand arbitration.

WORKERS LOCKED OUT.

Trenton, N. J., Nov. 6.—The Trenton Raincoat company has locked out its employes because they refuse to accept piece work. The management also refuses to sign an agreement with the union, affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

WOOD WORKERS UNITING.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 6.—The Mill Men's union is conducting an agitation among unorganized furniture workers, many of whom now agree that the non-union shop plan does not provide a decent living.

MALTERS RAISE WAGES.

Louisville, Ky., Nov. 6. — The Fleischman Malting company has signed a union shop agreement with the Brewery Workers' union. Wages are increased $5 a week.

TEAMSTERS UNITE.

Stillwater, Minn., Nov. 6.—Teamsters and chauffeurs have organized and are affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Farmers Are Paid Less; Retailers Charge More

Washington, Nov. 6.—During the 12 months ending last September prices paid to farmers for their meat animals were 14 per cent less than during the previous 12 months.

During the period ending last September the retail price of sirloin steak increased 15 per cent; round steak, 14 per cent; rib roast, 11 per cent; chuck roast, 8 per cent.

The government is authority for these figures. The price the farmer received is announced by the department of agriculture, and the retail prices are made public by the bureau of labor statistics.

Guns and Base Ball Bats Urged by Fresno Educator

Riverside, Cal., Nov. 6.—A demand for law and order and gatling guns and baseball bats to use against teachers who join trade unions were features of a harangue by Jerome O. Cross, before a meeting of city superintendents of California public schools.

Cross is head of the Fresno public school system and toadys to the two-by-four autocrats and cheap wage employers who are opposing trade unionism among teachers in Fresno, Oakland and other cities in the state.

Cross attempted to take the sting out of his anarchistic utterances by approving "some things" that organized labor has done.

"This is a problem that we cannot settle through conferences or counsel," he shrieked. "It looks to me that a baseball bat or a gatling gun is needed."

Then the "educator" urged law and order, demanded respect for authority and scored the "insinuating influences that are at work endeavoring to undermine constituted authority."

After the meeting destroyed the teachers' unions, it took up the question of conducting school bonds campaigns. One superintendent, who joined with the rest in their high regard for public opinion, doubted the wisdom of holding public meetings to discuss bond issues. He said public meetings provided "an opportunity for hecklers from the opposing side to get in their damaging work."

WOULD OUTLAW STRIKES.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 6.—The theory that strikes can be stopped by jailing workers rather than remove the cause of strikes is being urged in this state. Employing interests are behind a bill patterned after the Kansas law.

Under the proposed act if two persons agree to quit their employment they could be jailed as conspirators to hinder production. Picketing and the boycott would be forbidden and any trade union official who called a strike under instructions of his union could be fined $5,000 and jailed for two years.

Three judges, appointed by the governor, will have unlimited powers over the lives of the workers.

The state federation of labor has taken charge of opposition to this proposal, and Oregon trade unionists are sharpening their tomahawks for political agents of reaction who would handcuff workers to their jobs.

Unionists say cheap labor employers in this state will not have as easy sailing as in Kansas, where they took advantage of a manufactured public opinion when the miners were forced on strike to secure a living wage.

VACATIONS WITH PAY.

New York, Nov. 6.—The Engineering and Mining Journal discovers that "more and more is the social condition of the working man being improved," and that this movement is "good business" and benefits the employer.

"One reason, it must be admitted," continues this publication, "is that conditions in at least some (mining) camps were [illegible] unspeakable to continue, and another is that things had to be made more attractive than in similar employment in urban communities in order to hold men in out-of-the-way places."

This journal suggests that "granting a paid vacation of two weeks of the year to wage earners who have worked steadily will help to eradicate class distinction and will tend to remove the idea that they do not belong to the privileged class. It will also, in many cases, make for greater efficiency."

URGE "SCHOOL WEEK."

Washington, Nov. 6.—The first full week in December has been designated "school week" by P. P. Claxton, federal commissioner of education. This movement is part of the nation-wide campaign for the improvement of public schools and other agencies of education, including larger appropriations for the pay of teachers and for buildings and equipment.

All classes of citizens are urged to increase their interest in education at this time. Public officials, the public press and all manner of organizations are asked to aid in developing a stronger educational sentiment.

LADIES' TAILORS WIN.

Boston, Nov. 6.—Striking ladies' tailors have won a complete victory. All workers who received $45 a week or less are increased $4 a week, and a $2 advance will be given those whose rate is over $45. Legal holidays will be observed and the workers will be paid. The union is affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

WANT YARD FOR NOTHING.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The government asked bids for the Hog Island ship yard, near Philadelphia, which was built for war purposes at a cost of more than $60,000,000. One bid of $1,000,000 was received and this was rejected by the shipping board.

WANT JUDGES ELECTED.

Hoboken, N. J., Nov. 6.—Judges should be elected declared New Jersey steam and operating engineers at their quarterly conference in this city. These unionists insist that the judiciary should be responsive to a sound public opinion.

CO-OPS. PROSPER.

Paducah, Ky., Nov. 6.—The co-operative grocery store in this city is selling more goods than any of the privately owned stores.